

August 18, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554
Re:
MM Docket No. 99-25 (LPFM Proceeding)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to thank the FCC Commissioners for their recent steps towards licensing new low power FM radio stations. As a supporter of the Chicago Independent Radio Project (CHIRP), I am writing today to ask you to be sure to allow room for new LPFMs in large markets like Chicago. It's crucial to allow new grassroots radio stations like CHIRP the opportunity to broadcast to our vibrant, diverse urban audiences.

I strongly support the idea of dismissing all pending translator licenses in markets where a set LPFM floor could not be met if additional translator licenses were granted. I'd also ask that, moving forward, the Commission make sure there is room for urban LPFMs in the country's largest markets by providing opportunities for waivers for second adjacent channels, as called for in the Local Community Radio Act.

In an era of mass media consolidation, I believe very strongly in community radio stations. Stations like CHIRP and other potential low-power FM stations directly address the needs of local communities; CHIRP in particular focuses on local news and events, and arts and culture in Chicago. We support local musicians that would not have exposure elsewhere, and we report stories that are important to our listeners. We are made up of a large volunteer staff, and it is easy for an interested and passionate person to get involved. Large media conglomerates and translator licenses are impersonal at best, and have no connection or responsibility to the markets they supposedly serve. Unique low power FM stations ó NOT translator stations ó are vital to the identity and strength of a diverse urban community. It is important that the voice of the people be heard! Translator stations, in my opinion, are completely antithetical to the true spirit of the LPFM bill.

Please give groups like CHIRP the chance to apply for broadcast licenses by providing the flexibility to ensure frequencies can be found to license new LPFMs in urban areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Agustin
DJ/Volunteer, Chicago Independent Radio Project

